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Wigan Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1944

WIGAN :
J, Starr & Sons, Ltd., Dawber Street Works
1945

Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

S. Horridge, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

E. T. Hampson, Esq., J.P.

Councillors :

C. Bunker, Esq.

H. R. Dearden, Esq.

J. Graham, Esq.

R. I. Randall, Esq.

Clerk :

W. Gordon Pigot, Solicitor.

Staff Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health.

Dorothy M. James, M.D., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

W. R. WRIGHT.

Bank Chambers,
Wallgate,
Wigan,
November, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1944.

As in the previous year, the Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular. I wish to thank you for your very kindly interest taken in all matters affecting the Health and Sanitation of the District. I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. J. Holding and other members of the Staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

May I now express my thanks (and I may add that of Dr. J. G. Hailwood) to Miss Kenny for her valuable assistance during the past five years. At all times she has given freely of her help in the work in the Health Department, although it is outside her duties as a member of the County Staff. In particular we appreciate her assistance in the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, and her acceptance of the responsibility for making the appointments and keeping the records.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
DOROTHY M. JAMES,
M.D., D.P.H.

Wigan Rural District Council

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Townships	11,696
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,220
Rateable Value of District	£41,547
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£165

VITAL STATISTICS

Births and Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	82	64	146
(Illegitimate)	4	2	6
	86	66	152
Still Births(Legitimate)	1	1	2
(Illegitimate)	—	1	1
	1	2	3

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population.....19.6
Total Birth Rate (Live and Still) per 1,000 estimated Population 20.3

Deaths.—87 Deaths, 47 Males and 40 females, occurred during the year 1944, compared with 93 in 1943.

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population.....11.4

The causes of Death were :—

Deaths from Cancer	14
Deaths from Puerperal causes :	
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
other Natural Causes	Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Deaths from all causes	Males	Females
T.B. Respiratory	2	1
Cancer of Buc. Cav.	1	—
Cancer of Stomach	Nil.	5
Cancer of Breast	Nil.	1
Cancer of all other sites	3	4
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	4	8

Deaths from all causes	Males	Females
Heart Disease	9	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2
Bronchitis	4	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	Nil.	1
Ulcer of Stomach	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
Nephritis	1	2
Premature Birth	2	—
Congenital Malformation	1	Nil.
Suicide	—	1
Other Violent Causes	3	Nil.
All other Causes	13	3
	47	40

The total number of Live Births during 1944 was 152, compared with 117 in 1943.

The Total number of Still Births was 3 compared with 4 in 1943.

The Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population was 19.6 compared with 15.4 in 1943.

The Mean of Five Years	1939 to 1943 was	15.8
	The Year 1943 was	15.4
	The Year 1944 was	19.6
Increase in 1944 on Five Years average was		3.8
Increase in the Year 1944 on the Year 1943		4.2

DEATHS :—87 Deaths, 47 males and 40 females occurred in 1944 compared with 93 in 1943.

The Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 11.4.

The Adjusted Death Rate for 1944 cannot be given as the comparability factor is not available.

The Mean of Five Years,	1939 to 1943 was	12
	The Year 1943 was	12.2
	The Year 1944 was	11.4
Decrease in 1944 on Five Years' Average was		0.6
Decrease in 1944 on the Year 1943 was		0.8

The number of deaths in each Township was as follows:

Shevington	39
Wrightington	22
Parbold	12
Haigh	8
Dalton	3
Worthington	3
	87

Cancer.—14 deaths occurred from Cancer in 1944, compared with 12 in 1943.

Death Rate from Cancer per 1,000 per Estimated Resident Population was 1.83.

The Mean of Five Years, 1939 to 1943 was	1.29
The Year 1943 was	1.58
The Year 1944 was	1.83
Increase in 1944 on 5 years average was	0.54
Increase in 1944 on the year 1943 was	0.25

Infantile Deaths.—8 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1944, all males and all legitimate compared with 3 during 1943.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births was 52.

The Rate for England and Wales was 46.

The Mean of 5 years, 1939 to 1943 was	67
The year 1943 was	25
The year 1944 was	52
Decrease in 1944 on 5 years' average was	15
Increase in 1944 on 1943 was	27

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1944:

Disease	Admitted Hospital	Total Cases all ages	Under 1 yr.	1–	2–	3–	4–	5–	10–	15–	20–	35–	45–	Over 65–	Total Death
Scarlet Fever	6	15				2		5	5	2	1				
Diphtheria	1	2								2					
Measles		11			1	1	1	6	1	1					
Whooping Cough		12		1	3	1	1	6							
Chicken Pox		5			1		1	3							
TOTALS	7	45		1	5	4	3	20	6	5	1				Nil

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows:-

Wrightington

Scarlet Fever	5 cases
Whooping Cough	5 ,,
Measles.....	3 ,,
	13

Dalton

Whooping Cough	2 cases
Measles	1 ,,
	3

Parbold.

Chicken Pox	4 cases
Scarlet Fever	5
	9

Shevington

Scarlet Fever	5 cases
Diphtheria	1 ,,
Measles	6 ,,
Whooping Cough	1 ,,
	13

Haigh.

Measles	1 cases.
Diphtheria	1 ,,
Whooping Cough	4 ,,
Chicken Pox	1 ,,
	7

DIPHTHERIA.—Two cases of Diphtheria occurred in the district and one case was removed to the Whelley Hospital.

The cases occurred in the age groups 15 to 20.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—The Immunisation of children against diphtheria was continued during the year 1944, and I am able to report that there has been a very satisfactory response by the parents of the Rural District. The campaign is still being pressed with vigour. School children are treated at the schools with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, while the pre-school children are treated either at the schools or at the Child Welfare Centre. The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agent used is Alum precipitated toxoid in doses of 0.2.c.c. followed by 0.5.c.c. a month later. At the age of 5 years a further dose of 0.5.c.c. is given to keep up the child's immunity.

Total number of children immunised since commencement of the Scheme in October, 1940.

Ages.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	Total.
Under 1 Year	1	3	—	1	1	6
1 ,,	4	26	28	53	25	136
2 years	5	30	15	16	8	74
3 ,,	8	34	20	15	1	78
4 ,,	2	26	23	17	2	70
5 ,,	12	90	34	11	6	153
6 ,,	11	69	15	11	2	108
7 ,,	28	64	6	7	—	105
8 ,,	19	48	7	4	—	78
9 ,,	23	57	8	3	2	93
10 ,,	32	45	5	1	—	83
11 ,,	25	48	6	—	—	79
12 ,,	19	45	7	2	—	73
13 ,,	12	34	2	3	—	51
14 ,,	4	2	—	3	—	9
	205	621	176	147	47	1196

Schick Tests. — Nil. — in 1944.

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows :—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Wrightington	50	135	51	35	14
Dalton	38	40	8	—	1
Parbold	21	75	16	17	4
Shevington Crooke	82	332	82	83	27
Worthington	Nil.	23	9	7	1
Haigh	14	16	10	5	—
	205	621	176	147	47

Tuberculosis.—The notifications received during the Year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

New Cases and Mortality During 1944.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES. Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		DEATHS. Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	...
35	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65-over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	1	6	4	2	2	1	...	...

One case of Tuberculosis was notified after death took place. Generally notification is prompt and satisfactory. The County Council provide facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Wigan Rural District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own Doctor or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System was 0.39.

The Mean of 5 years, 1939 to 1943 was	0.28
The year 1943 was	0.52
The year 1944 was	0.39
Increase on the 5 years' average was	0.11
Decrease in 1944 on 1943 was.....	0.13

SCHOOLS.

A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at Ashfield House, Standish, where children may attend for inspection and treatment for minor ailments, and an Opthalmic Session is held once a fortnight. The Clinic has been very well attended. It was sanctioned for an Ante Natal Clinic to be opened at Ashfield House, in January, 1945. The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows:—

Monday	9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.	Medical Officer and Nurse attends.
Monday	2-0 p.m. (Fortnightly).	To commence January, 1945 Ante Natal Clinic.
Thursday	9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.	Minor Ailments. (Nurse only).
Friday	1-30 p.m. (Fortnightly)	Opthalmic Clinic.

The Routine Medical Inspections of children in the schools are carried out by the Medical Officer in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer. Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the School Teachers and the School Attendance Officer, the latter supplies a weekly return of the children who are absent from the school through sickness.

The County Council Health Visitor follows up the cases for whom the Medical Officer recommends treatment at the time of the school inspections. The Nurse also visits the schools regularly for the purpose of Cleanliness Inspections, and visits the parents to give advice to cases in which the standard of cleanliness, etc. is unsatisfactory. Meals are now provided for the children in all the schools.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.—It has not been found necessary to close the schools during the past year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—An infant Welfare Clinic is provided by the County Council at the Parish Rooms, Shevington The Medical Officer attends the Second Tuesday of the Month, and the Health Visitor attends the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the Month, from 1-30 to 4-0 p.m. The Milk Officer also attends at the Clinic on the above dates, for the purpose of distributing Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices, under the Government Scheme.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—A good supply of water is available in all Parishes, though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtain supplies from the following sources :—

Haigh	Blackrod U.D.C.	Upland Surface Water
Worthington	Standish U.D.C.	Upland Surface Water
Shevington	Standish U.D.C.	Upland Surface Water
Parbold	Own Supply	Deep Well Water
Wrightington	Own Supply	Deep Well and Spring Water
Dalton	Wrightington	do.

Conversions.—During the year 6 privy closets were converted to fresh W.C's. and 10 to pails. Movable ashbins were provided to 6 houses to replace ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

Public Cleansing.—Scavenging of the district is carried out by direct labour, and the Council's own Motor Wagon.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions.—Building development upon the outbreak of war stopped. Drainage is discharged into Septic Tanks, and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances into the Council's Sewer.

New Buildings.—During 1944 no new dwelling houses were erected in the Rural District.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Lime washing is carried out twice during the year or as often as may be necessary. The number of Cowkeepers who are Accredited Producers is 9.

Milk Sampling.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School children.

No. of Dairy Farms in the District	84
Approximate Number of Cows	500
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	138
Number on Register	138
Number of Inspections during the year	110
Dairymen other than Cowkeepers	6
Number on Register	6

Meat Inspections.—There are two registered slaughter houses with shops attached. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

DOROTHY M. JAMES,

Medical Officer of Health.